

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/051,038

Examiner

Barry Choobin

Applicant(s)

BOJER ET AL

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/15/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-17 (renumbered as claims 1-3).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on 8/15/2005. These drawings are approved.

Allowable Subject Matter

In light of Remarks field on 8/15/2005, and amendment to claims, claims 15-17 are in condition for allowance.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of Wang et al alone or in combination with other prior art fails to tech or fairly suggest the method of blending plural radiographic images as recited in independent claims 15-17 in instant application. In particular, the closest prior art of Wang et al does not rely upon adjusting pixel values of each pixel of the image, and the adjustment area is determined base on a rate change wherein the rate change is a decreasing rate as requires by independent claims 15 and 17 in combination with other elements of the independent claims.

As to claim 16, the closest prior art of Wang et al alone or in combination with other prior art fails to tech or fairly suggest the method of blending plural radiographic images as recited in independent claim 16 in instant application. In particular, the closest prior art of Wang et al does not rely upon adjusting pixel values of each pixel of the image, and the adjustment area is determined base on a rate change wherein the rate change is a decreasing rate and wherein the rate of decrease in the adjustment

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amount increases as the pixel value difference increases as required by independent claim 16.

By doing so, it is possible to avoid the introduction of artifacts during the image blending process. (See specification page 12, lines 16-23)

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry Choobin whose telephone number is 571-272-7447. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM to 18:30.

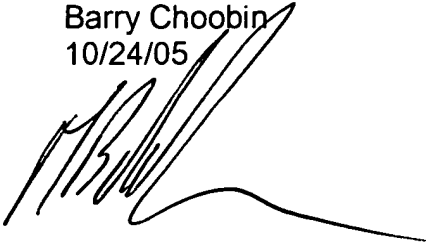
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WU JINGGE can be reached on 571-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Barry Choobin
10/24/05

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barry Choobin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.